



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Washington Crop Weather

Released: July 9, 2007
Week Ending: July 8, 2007
CWP WA-CW2807

Hot, Dry Weather Good for Hay Very Stressful On Grains, Peas and Pasture Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 7.0. Several areas reported new official high temperatures. Irrigation water was being applied to many crops. Dry, hot weather continued in major grain growing counties, and yields were expected to be lower as a result. Walla Walla County reported some winter wheat grain harvest had begun. The hot weather was good for bluegrass seed harvest and making timothy hay. Grant County reported fresh pea harvest was winding down.

Fruits and Vegetables

Cherry harvest continued and was nearly complete in the mid to lower Yakima Valley. Elsewhere; raspberries, strawberries, and blueberry harvest continued with exceptional yields reported. Apple growers were using irrigation systems and applied kaolin clay and other sunburn prevention materials on their crops. Pears appeared to be developing well. Early maturing peaches were showing good color with harvest expected within the next two weeks. Grant County reported sweet corn harvest was expected to begin soon. Farmer's Markets continued to be busy with the first flush of berries and an abundance of vegetables and tomatoes coming very soon.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 2% very poor, 11% poor, 23% fair and 64% good. Some beef producers reported being behind in pasture management as pastures have been going to seed. Many have cut their pastures to stay ahead of the grass. Shellfish growers continued limited harvest operations for both clams and triploid oysters.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	6.6

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	18	45	37	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	8	30	62	0
Subsoil	16	48	36	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	5	32	63	0
Irrigation Water	1	4	93	2
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	4	95	0
Hay & Roughage	4	10	82	4

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2006	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	98	81	85	96
Winter Wheat Harvested	3	NA	NA	1
Barley Headed	95	90	85	95
Potatoes Harvested	1	NA	2	4
Corn Emerged	100	98	100	100
Corn Silked	25	9	13	9
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	60	37	58	54
Dry Peas Harvested	4	1	16	7
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	100	99	99	99
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	53	38	52	54

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	13	39	45	2
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	3	70	27
Spring Wheat Dryland	4	29	47	20	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	2	9	81	8
Barley Dryland	3	17	46	34	0
Barley Irrigated	0	1	14	76	9
Potatoes	0	0	22	78	0
Corn	0	0	14	73	13
Dry Edible Beans	0	8	53	39	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: The weather has been cool. Farmers were cutting hay and planting was complete.

Clark: It was a good weekend for Farmer's Market vendors with both berries and tree fruits being available.

Clark/Skagit/Cowlitz/Wakiakum: Hay and other grazing pastures began to show signs of stress from the recent hot, dry weather. Raspberry harvest was in full swing with good yields. Strawberry harvest was mostly complete and yields were good. Blueberries were being harvested with exceptional yields. Dryland and irrigated small grain crops looked good. The upcoming week of forecasted hot weather was a concern with regards to fire danger in the woods. The hot weather may adversely affect the raspberry harvest and may also stress corn silage and forage crops further.

Grays Harbor: A week of very warm temperatures with highs reaching into the mid-80's resulted in rapid growth on sweet corn. At the same time, growers were challenged to meet irrigation requirements as the warm temperatures rapidly depleted soil moisture. Dairy producers continued making hay under nearly ideal conditions and applying liquid manure to recently harvested forage fields. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapidly ripening tomatoes. Christmas tree growers finished insecticide applications for aphids on Noble fir. Home gardeners enjoyed a bountiful harvest including lettuce, radishes, and new potatoes in addition to raspberries. The strawberry harvest was nearly finished.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: "Make hay while the sun shines" – and that is exactly what farmers have been doing. Hot dry weather was perfect for haying. Hay quality was good and yields were about average.

Jefferson: The first hay mow was done over the weekend. The weather has been hot and dry for the past ten days. There was lots of algae on ponds and wetlands. The lakes were still high in nutrients.

Mason: No precipitation and warm temperatures had all producers irrigating pastures, crops, nursery stock etc. Haymaking became a priority, with almost all hayfields being cut, baled, and put up. Farmer's markets saw the first flush of blueberries, gooseberries, and raspberries and an abundance of fresh vegetables. Producers who got tomato plants in early and under cover were harvesting their first ripe tomatoes. Livestock producers were making sure animals have good shelter and lots of water, as they prepare for the coming heatwave.

Mason (2nd Report): The weather was hot and dry with no precipitation. Everything was being irrigated, and most of the farmers have finished cutting their hay and were baling and clearing fields. Winter hay supplies were being hauled in all week. Producers were not baling excess hay, but plan to rotate grazing throughout the summer instead.

Pacific: Warm, dry summer weather settled in for the week, with growers completing a number of field activities. The cranberry crop remained about ten days behind normal development due to earlier cool weather conditions, but warmer temperatures helped overcome the problem. Weed and insect control, along with mid-season irrigation, continued. The raspberry harvest was in full swing with good yields. Mid-season hay operations were underway with the warm, dry weather, and producers with irrigation capability continued to apply water and manure waste water to their fields. Shellfish growers continued limited harvest operations for both clams and triploid oysters.

Pierce/S. King: Crop conditions were still looking good for the South Puget Sound area. There were no unusual conditions to report and no reports of crop damage due to a weather event.

Skagit: High temperatures for the week averaged 72 degrees. There was no precipitation recorded at the WSU Northwest Extension Center in Mount Vernon. With warmer temperatures and no rain in the lower delta Skagit Valley, crops were thirsty and heading into harvest. Strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries were available. The blueberries were especially sweet and tasty this year due to the warmer temperatures. This year's grass seed crop looked about a week out for swathing. The June rains lengthened the harvest date of this important rotational crop. Pea harvest will also be later than normal this year due to a colder, wetter June.

Snohomish/King: It was a good week for making hay. Raspberry harvest continued, and some blueberries were ripe. Corn, pumpkins and other crops were growing well. Rapeseed was in bloom.

Snohomish/King (2nd Report): Temperatures began to warm up with highs in the 80's. Farmers planted all of their crops. There was nothing unusual to report weather-wise.

Thurston: A week of warm temperatures and no precipitation quickly reduced available soil moisture. Pastures and hay fields without irrigation were rapidly developing drought stress symptoms. Christmas tree growers reported annual needle necrosis from the intense sunlight on both Noble and Grand fir. Growers were beginning to shear Norway spruce and Grand fir. Turfgrass growers were challenged to keep up with irrigation requirements. Blueberry growers opened fields for U-Pick and reported brisk sales. Livestock producers continued to harvest hay and haylage.

Thurston (2nd Report): From cold to hot with no in-between!

Whatcom: There was no rain but lots of sunshine during the week. Temperatures averaged 69 degrees. Irrigation was applied to all crops including pastures. Raspberry harvest began countywide. Some root rot damage was reported due to wet conditions in the spring. Potatoes were in full bloom. This was the last week for strawberry harvest. Final bean planting began.

Central

Chelan: Cherry harvest continued. Harvest slowed due to lower than average yields in some orchards last week. Harvest was expected to resume at a normal high rate this week as areas with better than average production mature. Harvest should continue through July. Labor has been sufficient for the cherry harvest, but few workers were available for hand thinning of apples. Pears were developing a good crop with average production. Apples were developing well and appeared to be average or slightly below average.

Douglas/Chelan: Very warm temperatures were experienced during the week. Cherry harvest was winding down. The winter wheat crop was turning. Dry windy conditions continued. A fire was burning north of Wenatchee, which affected some pastures and rangeland.

Grant: Fresh pea harvest was winding down. Cherry harvest continued. Some bean planting was being done. Sweet corn harvest will begin soon in the southern portion of the county. The second cutting of alfalfa was underway. Dryland winter wheat looked good, with harvest to begin in the next week or so.

Kittitas: Ellensburg set a new official record high of 107 degrees! There was a little bit of late growing and late maturing for the first cutting of timothy hay, but nearly everything was in the barn now. It has been an excellent year for cool season grass pastures. Many beef producers were finding themselves behind the curve of pastures going to seed. Many have hayed pastures, trying to stay ahead of

the grass. Differences in pasture management will really show in the next two months. Much of the sweet corn in the valley was tasseling, but as planting dates were staggered, there was still a fair bit of corn that was only waist high.

Klickitat: Large numbers of grasshoppers in Glenwood Valley were causing a lot of damage to crops. There was also a large number of blister beetles in the Goldendale area.

Klickitat (2nd Report): Very dry weather was beginning to stress crops. There has been no measurable precipitation for months.

Yakima: Cherry harvest was nearly complete in the lower and mid-Yakima Valley. Some cherry harvest continued with later varieties and higher elevations. Apple thinning continued and branches on trees in orchard not thinned were starting to get weighed down with fruit. Cover sprays for second generation codling moths were being applied. The weather was hot with triple digits and more of the same was expected. Apple growers were running irrigation and applying lots of kaolin clay and other sunburn prevention materials to their crops. Early-maturing peaches were coloring up well, and harvest was anticipated to begin within the next couple of weeks.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from 4 to 15 degrees above normal with no precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to a weather event.

Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat harvest officially began on Friday and Saturday. More activity will continue in the coming weeks.

Adams (2nd Report): The weather was hot and dry for the 4th of July and the rest of the week. Winter wheat harvest was underway in the earliest areas of the county and will spread north and east rapidly with another week of high temperatures.

Asotin/Garfield: Hot, dry, windy conditions prevailed during the week, with temperatures hitting triple digits in most areas. Many crops were in the critical filling stages. The hot weather will undoubtedly reduce yield and quality. Reports on hay crops indicate yields were substantially below normal. A wildfire in Asotin County consumed more than 3,000 acres of rangeland.

Ferry: Temperatures were hot and dry. Topsoil was drying out very fast as was most of the lower and south facing rangeland. Fire danger was increasing.

Lincoln: Hot weather was experienced for most of the week with winter wheat harvest ready to begin in some areas of the county. Spring grain crops may have suffered from these weather conditions. Pastures were drying up due to the hot weather.

Pend Oreille: The temperature high was 92 degrees with a low of 36 degrees and no precipitation. Several pasture fields burned due to fireworks from the 4th of July. Livestock was being fed emergency hay supplies. Hay will be in short supply this winter. Some hay fields were being used as pasture before it dries up, because hay was drying and was too short to cut and bail.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A week of very warm temperatures resulted in stressed plants. A projected additional week of 90 to 100 degree temperatures will seriously reduce yield potential in the spring crops. The only good thing the high temperatures have done is make a good bluegrass seed harvest and timothy haying weather.

Stevens: Hot, dry conditions prevailed during the week. High temperatures over 100 degrees were recorded for several days. The first cutting of hay was winding down, and a few producers were beginning the second cutting. Hay was very scarce with several producers already sold out. It looked as though only irrigated farms will produce a second cutting due to dry conditions.

Walla Walla: Extremely hot weather has pinched some of the grain. Grain harvest began. Green pea harvest was wrapping up. The second cutting of hay was moving along with average yields. Mountain pastures were still holding and lowland pastures were done.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Few producers have begun harvest. Many plan to start next week. Crops overall looked well. Temperatures for the week were very hot, with a record high of 110 degrees on July 5 in Walla Walla.

Whitman: Temperatures in the Palouse have been extremely dry. The crops that were in bloom, such as legumes and spring wheat, will have some yield loss if the temperatures remain high and no moisture events occur.

Weekly Weather Statistics

July 9, 2007

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
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	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	DFN	BASE-60F TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
WEST	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Bellingham Intl	52	78	64	+4	101	+23	31	+17	0.00	-0.35	0	34.90	+1.06	103	164
Everett	50	76	64	+2	96	+12	26	+5	0.00	-0.33	0	31.69	-2.52	93	161
Hoquiam	54	76	64	+4	96	+28	26	+19	0.00	-0.34	0	68.53	+3.00	105	182
Kelso	50	84	66	+4	118	+29	48	+23	0.00	-0.28	0	39.19	-5.20	88	134
Olympia	48	87	66	+5	112	+30	42	+23	0.00	-0.23	0	54.90	+6.15	113	161
Seattle-Tacoma	54	84	69	+5	133	+34	63	+31	0.00	-0.22	0	43.22	+7.67	122	153
Shelton	51	86	64	+1	103	+7	33	+3	0.00	-0.27	0	74.29	+11.29	118	167
Tacoma WA AP	51	82	66	+3	115	+19	45	+17	0.00	-0.25	0	39.37	+1.00	103	152
Vancouver WA	51	90	70	+8	143	+47	73	+45	0.00	-0.22	0	37.26	-2.26	94	137
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	56	107	77	+11	189	+72	119	+69	0.00	-0.07	0	8.03	-0.34	96	79
Omak AP	52	102	76	+11	184	+72	114	+67	0.00	-0.17	0	9.71	-3.79	72	60
Stampede Pass	47	87	62	+9	85	+53	22	+22	0.00	-0.40	0	96.94	+18.87	124	175
Wenatchee	63	101	80	+8	209	+57	139	+57	0.00	-0.07	0	8.56	+0.84	111	50
Yakima AP	50	103	78	+10	193	+62	123	+61	0.00	-0.07	0	6.91	-0.58	92	60
NORTHEAST															
Colville	51	104	75	+11	176	+69	106	+64	0.00	-0.21	0	13.96	-5.54	72	100
Deer Park	43	100	69	+3	138	+18	68	+15	0.00	-0.21	0	17.43	+0.27	102	111
Republic	51	97	74	+13	172	+86	102	+74	0.00	-0.26	0	13.43	-0.50	96	74
Spokane AP	55	101	76	+9	182	+62	112	+59	0.02	-0.16	1	14.25	-1.06	93	98
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	54	103	80	+7	209	+45	139	+45	0.00	-0.08	0	7.17	+0.44	107	65
Moses Lake	56	105	78	+5	196	+32	126	+32	0.00	-0.08	0	6.23	-0.50	93	63
Quincy	56	102	78	+9	197	+59	127	+58	0.00	-0.07	0	7.67	+0.39	105	49
Ritzville	56	101	77	+10	190	+68	120	+66	0.00	-0.14	0	10.24	-0.40	96	82
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	58	110	83	+8	232	+50	162	+50	0.00	-0.06	0	4.63	-1.45	76	48
Pasco	52	105	78	+5	197	+33	127	+33	0.00	-0.06	0	7.28	+0.26	104	70
Pullman	47	100	70	+7	144	+48	74	+40	0.00	-0.21	0	16.22	-3.48	82	103
Walla Walla Rgn	60	109	81	+8	218	+54	148	+53	0.00	-0.14	0	17.34	-0.95	95	89
Whitman Mission	52	107	76	+7	185	+47	115	+46	0.00	-0.14	0	13.00	+0.18	101	97
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	60	108	81	+9	218	+61	148	+60	0.00	-0.18	0	8.63	-2.56	77	82

Summary based on NWS data.

Season CUMulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2006

DFN = Departure From Normal.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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